Malcolm X on the war in the Congo (1964, aired KPFA 1978)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDTgc8xJnW8 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDTgc8xJnW8)

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Malcolm X talk on the war in the Congo, 1964. Aired on African Press Review, KPFA, 1978.
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as i said the congo somewhat sets the tones for this evening's program for the bulk of the program in a few moments we will be listening to a speech by malcolm x and the speech was delivered in 1964 at black history month the issue of africa and the historical development of resisting culture is something that has been commented on by many african spokesmen throughout the years marcus garvey who was the leader of the universal negro improvement association in the 1920s to most people's opinion the largest movement of african people which stretched into africa and the caribbean and south america and even had branches at times uh in south africa and as close here as oakland and san jose garvey's statements about africa might be summed up thusly garvey saw africa essentially as the only place where black people could launch a successful bid for equality with other nations africa was the black man's ancestral home he was still a majority there the continent was rich in natural resources and with some technical help from black people in other areas a determined drive for equality would have the best chances of success here and if the black man became powerful in africa this would necessarily raise his status all over the world for as garvey was fond of saying a strong man is strong everywhere africa for africans if the oil of africa garvey said is good for john d rockefeller's interest if the rubber is beneficial to the firestone interest is the iron ore if the iron ore is good enough for the carnegie trust then surely they are of interest to us and garby set the tone i think which has been picked up by malcolm x in this particular speech we'll listen to this evening this particular speech has some historical framework behind it it was given in december of

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behind it it was given in december of 1964 at the audubon ballroom in harlem and it was given approximately one month after malcolm x had returned to the united states after 25 weeks abroad and approximately about a year after his departure from the black muslim movement headed by elijah muhammad and at this particular time there were two other speakers on the program dick gregory and abdul rahman muhammad babu who was the representative of the tanzanian government at that particular time the speech was sponsored by the organization of african unity which was the organization that malcolm x founded and the speech coincided with the increase of u.s intervention into the congo many of us who know of malcolm x know that he was a great internationalist that he brought a spark to the movement in the 1950s in the 1960s that uh certainly cannot be duplicated yeah i think if you listen to his comments this evening on the congo and realize how relevant they are in 1980 as they were in 1964 you can understand very clearly why

malcolm x was murdered as he was in 1965. i encourage people to look further into the background of malcolm x he makes in this particular speech entitled from an album entitled the last message he makes some very very insightful comments about the press and i think if you take a look at the recent international situations you can see that his statements hold true 16 years later he also makes some statements on southern africa specifically on the congo and he talks about the efforts of the western powers along with belgium and the united nations to blunt the original independence move in the congo led by patrice lumumba and by joseph casavul he talks about shombi and malcolm's predictions have come very very true because soon after shone babe was left the congo

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soon after shone babe was left the congo the leader mobutu seseko at that time joseph mabutu replaced toshombi and he has been very much in the pocket of western interest and has continued his rule of the congo until this period and those of you who followed zaire know that is very very much controlled by the international monetary fund and has had strong connections with south africa so i'd like people to listen very very closely to malcolm the comments that he's going to make on the congo this evening when they knew them this affair which is which is designed to honor outstanding black americans is it not you'd find nothing in the newspapers to give the slightest hint that this affair was going to take place not one here why this you see you have many sources of news if you don't think that they're in cahoots watch they're all interested or none of them are interested it's not a staggering thing they're not going to say anything in van in advance that's being given by any black people who believe in functioning beyond the scope of the ground rules that are laid down by this by the liberal element of the power structure when you begin to start thinking for yourself you they you frighten them and they try and block you're getting to the public for fear that if the public listens to you then the public won't listen to them anymore and they've got to they got certain negroes whom they have to keep blowing up in the paper to make them look like leaders so that the people will keep on following them no matter how many knots they get on their head following him this is how the man does it and if you don't wake up and find out how he does it i tell you they'd be burning they'd be building gas chambers and gas levels

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chambers and gas levels pretty soon i don't mean those kind you got at home in your kitchen another example at the international level of how skillfully they used this uh trickery was in the congo in the congo uh airplanes were dropping bombs on african villages african villages don't have a defense against bombs and the pilot can't tell who the bomb is being dropped upon when a bomb hits the village everything goes and these pilots filled with uh driving flying planes filled with bombs dropping these bombs on african villages we're destroying women we're destroying children we're destroying babies you never heard any outcry over here about that and it had started way back in june they were they would drop bombs on african villages that would blow that village apart and everything in it man woman child and baby no outcry no sympathy no support no no concern because the press didn't project it in such a way that it would be designed to get your sympathy they know how to put something so that you'll sympathize with it and they know how to put it so you'll be against it i'm telling you there are masters at it and if you don't develop the analytical ability to read between the lines and what they're saying i'm telling you again to be building that yes ovens and before you wake up you'll be in one of them just like the jews ended up in gas ovens over there in germany you're in a society that's just as capable of building gas ovens for black people as hitler's society was this was mass murder in the congo of women and children and babies but there was no outcry even from the white liberals even from your friends why because

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even from your friends why because they made it appear that it was a humanitarian project they said that the planes were being uh flown by american trained anti-castro cuban pilots this is propaganda too as soon as you hear this american train you say oh that's all right that's us and the anti-castro cubans oh that's all right

too because it's against castro whoever else they're against that's good because castro is a monster but you see how step by step they grab your mind and these pilots are are hired their salaries are paid by the united states government they're called mercenaries these pilots are and a mercenary is not someone who kills you because he's patriotic he kills you for blood money he's a hired killer that's what a mercenary means uh and they're able to take these hired killers put them in american planes with american bombs and drop them on uh african villages blowing tibets black men black women black children black babies and you black people sitting over here cool like it doesn't even involve you you're a fool they'll do it to them today and do it to you tomorrow because you and i and they are all the same they call it a humanitarian project and that they're doing it in the name of freedom and all of this these glorious terms are used to pave the way in your mind for what they're going to do then they take shaumbi you heard of shondy he's the worst african that was ever born the lowest type that was ever born he's a murderer himself he's the murderer of lumumba the former prime minister of the first and only rightful prime

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of the first and only rightful prime minister of the congo he's an international he's a murderer with an international stature as a murderer yet the united states government went and got shown me in spain and put him as the uh head of the congolese government imagine this this is criminal here's a man who's a murderer so united states takes him puts him over the congo and supports his government with your tax dollars now in other words they hire him to occupy the position as head of state over the congo a killer he is a hired killer himself his salary paid by the united states government and he turns his first move is to bring in south africans who hate everything in sight he hires those south africans to come and kill his own congolese people and the united states again pays their salary you know it's something to think about how do you think you would feel right now if some congolese brothers walked up to you they look just like you don't think you don't look congolese you look as much congolese as a congolese guy they got all kinds of congolese over there uh how would you feel if one of them walked up to you and asked you about what your government is doing in the congo i was asked that when i was over there but they didn't have to come to me like that because they know where i stand automatically anyway and for what i'm thankful to the press for letting everybody know where i stand they but you have no explanation your your your tongue stays in your mouth and you have to then become go to the extreme to convince them that you don't go along with what the united states government is doing in the congo but again it comes your image making comes in comes into uh importance here and they

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uh importance here and they justify the usage of shaumbi as the present head of state by saying he's the only african who can unite or bring unity to the congo has he brought unity to the congo but see this is their game and their real reason for wanting sean be there was so that shambi could invite them to come in no other african head of state would have had would have dared to invite outside powers so they put shaumbry there and as soon as shonvi got there then he invited them to uh bring paratroopers from belgium in the united states transport planes to try and recapture the congo this is all a cold-blooded act on the part of your western powers namely the western powers here in the united states in england in france and in belgium and so forth they want the wealth of the congo plus its strategic geographic position [Music] the step-by-step process that is used was used by the press first they fan the flame in such a manner to create hysteria in the mind of the public and then they ship gears and and and fan the flame in a manner designed to get the sympathy of the public and once they go from hysteria to sympathy the next step is to get the public to support them in whatever act they're getting ready to go down with you dealing with a coal calculating international machine that's so criminal in its objectives and motives that it'll be it has the seeds of its own destruction right within it they use the press to emphasize that white hostages are being held by cannibals imagine that or white hot white priests white missionaries white none they don't say nuns white nuns you know what the paper said right here in detroit white missionaries not just a missionary

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missionaries not just a missionary a white nun is if there's a difference between a white nun and a black nun or a white priest and a black priest or as or or or if the life that's in a white skin is more valuable than a life within a black skin this is what they're implying and the press go get the press when this thing was going on and you see what i'm talking about they're vicious in their whiteness but still i wouldn't judge them just because they're white because they call me a racist judging by their deeds by their conscious behavior and you know how they've been consciously behaving in the congo and how they consciously behave in in vietnam and how they consciously behave right now in alabama and mississippi so you and i got to get conscious and start behaving in a way that we can all set this thing before it's too late and this is what they don't want to hear one more thing concerning xiaomi if you notice the and i must go all over over there on the african continent in order to give you a better understanding of what's going on right here the next thing that uh is good to know about xiaomi no congolese troops have ever won any victories whatsoever for the present congolese government congolese soldiers won't even fight uh unless they're forced to but the fighters in the congo were the freedom fighters these brothers from the oriental eastern province and they fought with stones and sticks and and rocks and spears and arrows and the only time they had a gun was when they got some soldier who had it and they'd kill him and take his gun but they were winning they took over two-thirds of the congo showing you they were fighting from their heart whereas these other people their heart wasn't in it and because of the fighting spirit of these people it will be impossible for shelby to remain as head of state over the congo without

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as head of state over the congo without uh additional troops white troops constantly being brought in from south africa or elsewhere but sooner or later these troops are going to give out and then america is going to have to increase her truth like she did in in south vietnam you know she has there she's not at war over there you know they're only over there advising they got about 20 000 advisors you know on the front line but it's it's not a wall it's just an invite they're in an advisory capacity why they insult the intelligence of their own public and uh they're going to have to end up doing the same thing in the congo they'll be trapped uh they'll have to eventually send american troops to occupy the congo because the african freedom fighters are going to fight they're not going to give up one inch without fighting back and this is something that you should know that they they realize now on the african continent what's at stake and how much uh all of these western powers have in common in what they're doing in cahoots with each other behind the closed door so on the african continent they are training africans to be soldiers so that they can invade each one of these countries and take it over and give it to their rightful people one of the reasons uh that one of the last things i must say concerning the congo not only do they not intend for the congo to fall into african hands because of its mineral wealth and it has the greatest deposits of some of the richest elements or minerals of any other area on this earth they don't intend to give it up because of its wealth another reason they don't intend to give it up if you look at the map you'll see that it is uh so strategically located geographically wherein if a real genuine african government were to come in power over the congo then it would be possible for african troops from all countries to invade angola which is a portuguese possession and when and if angola fell and it would fall then it would only be a matter of time before southwest africa southern rhodesia

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rhodesia and view toronto line also would fall and it would put african troops right on the border of south africa and that's where they really want to get at that man down in south africa and the united states interests are involved in blocking this yes some of these liberals who grin in your faith like they face like they're your best friend they got money tied up in the congo some of the most powerful political figures in this country some of them governors over states that interest in the congo and got interest in south africa and got interest all over the african continent and go there [Music] and as the applicants awaken and realize this they it makes them uh filled with the incentive to never rest until that exploiter is driven out so now what effect does this have on us why should the black man in america uh concern himself since we've been away from the african continent for 400 years three or four hundred years why should we concern ourselves what impact does what happened to them have upon us number one first you have to realize that up until 1959 africa was

dominated by the colonial powers and by the colonial powers of europe having complete control over africa they projected the image of africa negatively they projected africa always in a negative light jungles savages cannibals nothing civilized and one and naturally it was so negative until you it was negative to you and me and you and i began to hate it we didn't want anybody to tell us anything about africa and much less call us an african uh and and uh and in hating africa and hating the african we ended up even hating ourselves without even realizing it because you can't hate the roots of a tree and not heat the tree you can't hate your origin and not end up hating yourself you can't

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and not end up hating yourself you can't hate africa and not hate yourself and you show me one of these people over here who have been thoroughly brainwashed who has a negative attitude toward africa and i'll show you one that has a negative attitude toward himself you can't even you can't have a negative attitude towards your positive attitude toward yourself and a negative attitude toward africa at the same time to the same degree that your attitude that your understanding of and attitude toward africa becomes positive you'll find that your understanding of and your attitude toward yourself will also become positive and this is what the white man knows [Applause] so they very skillfully uh made you and me hate our african identity our african uh characteristics and you know yourself that we have been the people who hated our african characteristics we hated our hair we hated the shape of our nose we wanted one of those long dog-like noses you know yeah we hated the color of our skin hated the blood of africa that was in our veins and in hating our features and our skin and our blood why we had to end up hating ourselves and we hated ourselves our color became to us a chain we felt that it was holding us back our color came to us became to us like a prism which we felt was keeping us confined not letting us go this way or that way and we felt that all of these restrictions were based solely upon our color and the psychological reaction to that would have to be that as long as we felt imprisoned or chained or trapped by black skin black features and black blood uh that skin and those features and and that blood that was holding us back automatically had to become hateful to

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automatically had to become hateful to us and it became hateful to us it made us feel inferior it made us feel inadequate it made us feel helpless and when we uh fell victim to this feeling of in inadequacy or inferiority or helplessness we turned to somebody else to show us the way we didn't have confidence in another black man to show us the way all black people to show us the way in those days we didn't we didn't think a black man could do anything but play some harm you know some sounds and make you happy with some songs and in that way but in serious things where our food clothing and shelter was concerned and our education was concerned we turned to the man we never thought in terms of bringing these things into existence for ourselves we never thought in terms of doing things for ourselves because we felt helpless and what made us feel helpless was our hatred for ourselves thank you very much this has been walter turner for africa press review and i'll see you two weeks you

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